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Washington Whispers

Latest size-up from U.S. intelligence on Soviet penetration of Afghanistan: Russians control Kabul, other chief cities and main roads—but not the nation's hills and mountains. The Afghan Army—once 90,000 strong—is now down to 25,000 as deserters either return home or join the rebels.

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From intelligence sources comes word that Libya's strong man Muammar Qadhafi, long a financier of worldwide terrorism, is suddenly cooling off on the idea. Reason: Qadhafi has learned that he himself is the No. 1 target of terrorists who have been offered huge sums to kill him by some of Qadhafi's intended targets in the Arab world.